

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. Please cancel claims 4 and 6 without prejudice or disclaimer.

1. (Currently Amended) A structure for mounting a shift operation device on a vehicle body, comprising:

a support member having a first part comprising a notch including a pair of oppositely disposed projections, said projections disposed perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of said notch, said first part to be fixed on the vehicle body, and a second part having an opening aligned with said notch to support said shift operation device so as to be dropped downwardly with the shift operation device when a larger load than that of a predetermined value is applied to said first part,

wherein said first and second parts are integrally formed into a single component, said shift operation device being mounted on the vehicle body via said support member so that the larger load than that of the predetermined value can break and drop the shift operation device.

2. (Previously Presented) The structure according to claim 1, wherein said first part is sandwiched on a front and a back thereof by said second part.

3. (Previously Presented) The structure according to claim 2, wherein a mounting member is inserted in said notch for mounting said support member on said shift operation device, wherein said first part further comprises openings with a predetermined diameter disposed at both sides of said notch,

wherein a plastic material fills in said notch and said openings, and

wherein the plastic material filled in said openings breaks away when the larger load than that of the predetermined value is applied to said support member.

4. (Canceled.)

5. (Previously Presented) The structure according to claim 3, wherein at least one of said openings has a hollow opening for filling with the plastic material, a positioning pin projecting from a side wall of said shift operation device is inserted into said hollow opening, and

said positioning pin inserted into said hollow opening breaks away when the larger load than that of the predetermined value is applied to said support member.

6. (Canceled.)

7. (Previously Presented) The structure according to claim 3, wherein said second part comprises said plastic material; and

said plastic material used when said second part is formed fills in said notch and said openings.